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Controlling Pests of Trees and Shrubs – Guide for Home Gardeners
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CONTROLLING PESTS OF TREES AND SHRUBS

GUIDE FOR HOME GARDENERS

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HOME AND FAMILY SERIES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CONTROL MEASURES given in this folder are recommended as a guide to the home gardener for controlling the more common pests of trees and shrubs. Many of these pests can cause serious plant injury in a short period of time. Therefore, it is suggested that periodic inspection of plantings be an integral part of any grounds maintenance program. Replacement of woody plants is a costly and sometimes impossible operation. Learn to recognize and direct control measures against the pest before serious plant injury occurs.

Effective pest control is based on proper application of an appropriate chemical at the correct time. Unfortunately there is no one chemical that will adequately control all pests. Therefore, many pests require special consideration. The timing of pesticidal sprays is given for a certain time during the year to control a particular stage of the pest. Failure to comply with these suggestions will often lead to disappointing results.

Pesticides are sold as wettable powder or as emulsifiable concentrate formulations. Both types are designed to be diluted in a given amount of water and applied as sprays. Generally, emulsion type insecticides will give longer lasting residues than wettable powder formulations. Furthermore, it is recommended that emulsions be used in sprayers that lack agitation since there will be less problems with their remaining in suspension.

ALL-PURPOSE SPRAYS

Effective pest control is achieved by applying the appropriate chemical at the correct time. However, several chemicals can be combined to give an all-purpose spray which will give general plant protection. Such all-purpose sprays are generally more expensive and will not control all insects. Certain insects will require special treatment. The following mixture applied on a regular schedule of about May

15, June 15 and July 15 will give general plant protection throughout the year: SEVIN plus MALATHION plus KELTHANE.

RATES OF APPLICATION

Following are the chemicals and their rates of application recommended for controlling the various pests in this folder. Be accurate in your dilution rates, too much chemical may cause plant injury, too little chemical will result in poor pest control.

CHEMICAL	AMOUNT OF WATER	
	3 gals.	100 gals.
Chlordane		
40% wettable powder	1 cup	5 lbs.
45% emulsion	4 tsp.	2 qt.
DDT		
50% wettable powder	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup	4 lbs.
25% emulsion	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup	1 gal.
Dormant Oil emulsion*	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups	2 gals.
Kelthane		
18.5% wettable powder	6 tsp.	2 lbs.
18.5% emulsion	2 tsp.	1 qt.
Lindane		
25% wettable powder	3 tsp.	1 lb.
20% emulsion	4.5 tsp.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ pts.
Liquid Lime Sulfur suspension†	2.5 pts.	11 gals.
Malathion		
25% wettable powder	1 cup	4 lbs.
57% emulsion	2 tsp.	1 qt.
Methoxychlor		
50% wettable powder	6 tsp.	2 lbs.
25% emulsion	3 tsp.	2 qts.
Sevin		
50% wettable powder	6 tsp.	2 lbs.
4 flowable	2 tsp.	1 qt.
Tedion		
25% wettable powder	3 tsp.	1 lb.
10% emulsion	2 tsp.	1 qt.

*Apply according to manufacturers' directions in spring before plant growth begins when temperature is above 45° F. and danger of freezing nights has passed.

†Discolors stone, paint and brick; therefore, use with caution around buildings.

HOST GUIDE TO COMMON PESTS

APPLE aphids bagworm cottony maple scale mites oystershell scale rose chafer San Jose' scale	BIRCH aphids birch leaf miner bronze birch borer	FLOWERING FRUITS aphids mites rose chafer San Jose' scale	MAPLE aphids bagworm boxelder bug cankerworms cottony maple scale maple gall mites oystershell scale	PYRACANTHA mites San Jose' scale
ARBORVITAE bagworm Fletcher scale juniper scale mites taxus weevil	BOXELDER aphid boxelder bug	HONEY LOCUST cottony maple scale mites	OSAK aphids cankerworms cottony maple scale mites	SPRUCE bagworm mites pine needle scale spruce gall aphids
ASH bagworm boxelder bug cottony maple scale lilac borer oystershell scale San Jose' scale	COTONEASTOR mites San Jose' scale	JUNIPER bagworm Fletcher scale juniper scale mites	PINE aphids bagworm mites pine needle scale pine sawflies	TAXUS (YEW) Fletcher scale taxus mealybug taxus weevil
	DOUGLAS-FIR Cooley spruce gall aphid mites	LILAC lilac borer oystershell scale San Jose' scale	PRIVET lilac borer mites	VIBURNUM aphids oystershell scale
	ELM aphids bagworm cankerworms cottony maple scale mites rose chafer San Jose' scale	LINDEN aphids bagworm cankerworms cottony maple scale oystershell scale San Jose' scale		WILLow aphids cottony maple scale lilac borer oystershell scale
	EUONYMUS euonymus scale			

INSECT CONTROL GUIDE

PEST	INJURY AND PLANTS ATTACKED	WHEN TO TREAT	WHERE TO TREAT WHAT TO USE
APHIDS	Soft-bodied gray, green, red or black insects about 1/8 inch long. Suck juices from leaves and new growth of many deciduous trees and shrubs as well as several conifers. Liberate large amounts of sticky honeydew, which eventually turns black.	<i>Dormant</i> — During April before plant growth begins for controlling overwintering eggs. <i>Spring or Summer</i> — From May through August to control active forms.	Dormant oil to twigs and branches. Malathion or Lindane to foliage.
BAGWORMS	Caterpillars within bags up to 2 inches long rapidly devour foliage of many evergreens (especially arborvitae) and several deciduous trees.	When caterpillars first noticed — usually during mid-June.	Malathion or Sevin or Methoxychlor to foliage.
BIRCH LEAF MINER	Flattened, white, legless larvae feed between upper and lower leaf surfaces, causing leaves to blister and turn brown.	When eggs have hatched but before leaf mines exceed 3/8 inch — usually during mid-May.	Malathion or Lindane or Sevin to the foliage.

BOXELDER BUG	Black and red bugs about ¼ inch long feed on seed pods and leaves of boxelder, maple and ash, but cause little injury. Chiefly a nuisance pest because it invades dwellings for overwintering.	When insects congregate in May and June or in the fall.	Malathion or Lindane or Sevin to the foliage or to bases of trees or building foundations where the insects cluster.
BRONZE BIRCH BORER	White, legless larvae tunnel beneath bark, girdling branches, causing them to die. Die-back of branches begins in the top, but all woody portions may be attacked.	The first week in June followed by a second spray in two weeks.	DDT to the bark of all branches and trunk.
CANKERWORMS	Inchworms about 1 inch long consume the leaves of elm, maple, linden, oak, and many others during May and June.	During early May when larvae begin to feed.	Sevin or Malathion to the foliage.
COTTONY MAPLE SCALE	White, cottony scales about ¼ inch long on the twigs suck plant juices and cause leaves to yellow and drop prematurely. Tree vigor is reduced and individual branches may be killed.	Dormant—Before plant growth begins in the spring to control overwintering scales. or Summer—During late June or early July to control immature scales.	Lime Sulfur—To the bark of all branches and trunk. Sevin or Malathion—To all plant parts.
EUNYMUS SCALE	Brown, oval females and white, elongated males infest the stems and leaves of evergreen and deciduous varieties of eunymus. Leaves turn yellow, then drop prematurely; eventually the entire plant dies.	Dormant—Before plant growth begins in spring to control overwintering scales. or Summer—In late May or early June to control immature scales. Repeat again in 10 days.	Dormant Oil—Applied to upper and lower leaf surfaces and stems. Malathion.
FLETCHER SCALE	Brown, oval, hemispherical scales ¼ inch long suck the juices from the twigs of taxus, arbutus and juniper. Heavy infestations cause needles to yellow and drop; branches or entire plants may be killed.	Dormant—Before plant growth begins in spring to control overwintering scales. or Summer—In late June and repeat in 10 days.	Dormant Oil—Applied with pressure to all plant parts. Malathion or Sevin—Applied with pressure to the foliage.
JUNIPER SCALE	Grayish-white scales 1/20 inch in diameter with a yellow center suck juices from the foliage and twigs of larch, yellow and branches or entire trees die.	Dormant—Before plant growth begins in spring. Summer—In mid-May. This spray should be repeated in 10 days if immature scales continue to emerge over an extended period of time.	Lime Sulfur—To all plant parts. Malathion or Sevin—To all plant parts.
LILAC BORER	Cream-colored larvae with brown heads about 1 inch in length bore into the main stem of lilac, ash, and privet causing leaves to wilt and shoots to break off. Older, rough-barked stems are most susceptible to attack.	Cut and burn heavily infested shoots before the end of April. Apply spray at 3-week intervals beginning the first week in May.	DDT—To all woody parts.
MAPLE BLADDER GALL	Green, red, or black bladder-shaped galls on the upper leaf surface of silver and red maples are caused by microscopic mites. White galls may be numerous, they cause little injury to the tree.	After leaves have dropped in the fall or during April before plant growth begins.	Liquid Lime Sulfur or Malathion to all twigs and branches.
OYSTERSHELL SCALE	Gray-brown, oyster-shell-shaped scales about ¼ inch long completely encrust branches and twigs of larch, ash, willow, apple, viburnum, and many other trees and shrubs. Trees are stunted, foliage is yellowed, and branches or entire trees die.	Dormant—Before plant growth begins in spring. or Summer—Apply in late May and repeat in 2 weeks to control immature scales.	Dormant Oil—To all woody parts. Malathion or Sevin to leaves, twigs, and trunk.
FINE NEEDLE SCALE	White, elongated scales about ¼ inch long suck juices from needles of Scotch, red, Austrian, and white pines as well as white and blue spruces. Trees are stunted, needles turn yellow and drop prematurely. If uncontrolled, this insect may kill entire trees.	Dormant—Apply in April before plant growth begins. or Summer—Apply when larch is in full bloom (late May) and repeat again in late July.	Liquid Lime Sulfur—Complete coverage of all woody portions. Malathion or Sevin to needles and branches.
FINE SAWFLIES	Larvae about ½ inch long (gray-green with black stripes or white with rows of black spots) feed in clusters and completely strip the older needles from Scotch, red, Austrian, mugho, and jack pines. When disturbed, larvae raise black their heads.	During early May when larvae hatch from overwintering eggs.	Malathion or Sevin or Methoxychlor—To entire foliage.
ROSE CHAFER	During June, tan beetles ½ inch long with spiny red legs are particularly damaging to rose, peony, iris and other floricultural crops. However, adults also feed on the foliage of elm, apple, cherry, virginia creeper, and others.	Control of the immature grub stage is usually impractical, but adults are easily controlled during early June.	Sevin or Methoxychlor to the foliage when adults congregate.
SAN JOSE SCALE	Gray-black scales 1/16 inch in diameter with a central nipple encrust branches and trunk of apple, flowering cherry, firethorn, cotoneaster, quince, dogwood, elm, ash, and many others. Scales suck large amounts of juices, reducing plant vigor, often killing branches or the entire tree.	Dormant—During April before plant growth begins. or Summer—In late June and again in 10 days; repeat in early August and again 10 days later to control immature scales.	Dormant Oil or Liquid Lime Sulfur—To all woody parts. Sevin or Malathion—To all plant parts.
SPIDER MITES	Several different mites feed on the leaves of elm, oak, linden, ash, flowering crab, pyracantha, pine, arbutus, juniper, spruce, and many others. Mites pierce tissues and suck juices, giving leaves or needles a stippled or bronzed appearance and causing them to drop prematurely. Mites can be detected by forcibly jarring a portion of the foliage over a white piece of paper; mites will appear as tiny moving specks.	Dormant—During April before plant growth begins. or Spring through Fall—To control active mites.	Dormant Oil to all plant portions. (Caution—oil will remove bloom from blue spruce.) Kelthane or Tedion—To all leaf surfaces.
SPRUCE GALL APHIDS	Abnormal green to brown swellings which encompass the small roots of yew, rhododendron, andromeda, arbutus, hemlock, and many other herbaceous plants, causing odd growth to yellow and reducing new growth. Black adult weevils about 2/5 inch long hide in the soil during the day and feed at night by chewing notches in needles particularly those closest to the soil.	During April before plant growth begins.	Lindane or liquid lime sulfur—To all twigs and branches.
TAXUS MEALYBUG	All varieties of yew, especially the more compact forms, are subject to attack by this white, fluffy, slow-moving insect that sucks juices from the branches and trunk. Infested plants accumulate abundant brown needles and become blackened with honeydew.	Dormant—During April before plant growth begins. Early Summer—In late May or early June before insects produce protective cottony material.	Dormant Oil—To suck of all branches and trunk. Malathion—To all branches and twigs.
TAXUS WEEVIL	White, legless grubs about ¼ inch long feed on the small roots of yew, rhododendron, andromeda, arbutus, hemlock, and many other herbaceous plants, causing odd growth to yellow and reducing new growth. Black adult weevils about 2/5 inch long hide in the soil during the day and feed at night by chewing notches in needles particularly those closest to the soil.	During late June or early July after all adults have emerged from the soil.	Chlordane—With pressure to the plant and the soil beneath it.

EQUIPMENT

There are many types and sizes of sprayers suitable for spraying ornamental shrubs and trees. The type of equipment you select will depend on the magnitude of your spray operation and your preference.

Hose-on Sprayer. Simple to operate, these small sprayers are designed to be attached to a garden hose. They require no spray tank but operate by metering out a desired amount of chemical into a stream of water under household pressure. Problems encountered in some types of these sprayers have been poor spray distribution, clogging of nozzles and non-mixing of the insecticide with the water.

Trombone Sprayer. Spray mixture can be prepared in any size container and applied by inserting the intake apparatus into it and moving the slide in a trombone-like motion. A uniform spray concentration can be obtained since the insecticide is mixed in a known quantity of water. However, the insecticide mixture should be periodically agitated when using wettable powder formulations.

Compressed Air Sprayer. Air is pumped into the tank and forces the spray out when the nozzle is opened. Compressed air sprayers with 3- to 5-gallon capacity have wide adaptability for spraying small plantings. It is advisable to shake the sprayer periodically when using wettable powder insecticides to keep them in suspension.

Knapsack Sprayer. Carried on the back this sprayer operates by hand pumping a piston which supplies the spray pressure. The capacity of these sprayers is 3- to 5-gallons and allows for considerable movement in treating plants widely spaced from each other.

For treating large trees, high-pressure power sprayers are necessary. Should it be necessary to treat large trees, you should consult a commercial sprayer operator.

GENERAL WARNINGS

All pesticides are poisonous in some degree to warm-blooded mammals. They should be handled cautiously to prevent poisoning pets, livestock, children, or the user. When using any chemical, observe the following safe-use procedures:

1. Always read the label before using any chemical. Note warnings and cautions each time before opening the container.

2. Keep chemicals out of the reach of children, pets, and irresponsible people. Pesticides should be stored in their original container outside the home in a locked cabinet or shed.

3. Avoid inhaling pesticide sprays or dusts and, as directed on the label, wear protective clothing and mask. A handkerchief fitted to the face and long-sleeved shirts and gloves will help prevent excessive inhalation and contact with the material.

4. Do not spill sprays or dusts on the skin or clothing. If they are spilled, wash yourself immediately with soap and water and launder your clothing before wearing it again.

5. Dispose of empty pesticide containers in trash or by burning or burying them. When burning them, avoid inhaling the smoke.

6. Use separate equipment for applying hormone-type herbicides and separate equipment for applying pesticides in order to avoid accidental injury to susceptible plants.

7. Do not apply an insecticide listed in this folder to vegetables, fruits, livestock, or garden soils unless the label or up-to-date Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service literature says you can safely do so.

Effort has been made to suggest only those chemicals which will adequately control the target pest with maximum safety to the user and other wildlife. Proper handling and application of these pesticides will further minimize undesirable side effects.

